(c) and d) Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that regular raids are conducted to apprehend Beggars under Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 as extended to Delhi. Many other steps like mobile courts under the Act, Opening of Shelter Homes, involvement of NGO's in training and rehabilitation of Beggars, Public -Awareness Campaigns to make people desist from giving alms have been part of perspective plans to end begging menace.

Discrimination and atrocities on dalits in Uttar Pradesh

2289. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted the media reports quoting the observation made by the Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) that incidents of discrimination and atrocities against the dalits was the highest in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government has verified the observation made before the media by the head of NCSC or whether the observation was summary of any report already submitted to Government;

(c) the details thereof in either case; and

(d) the steps initiated, if any, by Government on the basis thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In the absence of specific details about the media reports, it is not possible to comment. However, as per information available for the year 2007 of the National Crime Records Bureau, pertaining to cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, in absolute terms, the State of Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of cases registered.

(d) As provisions of this Act are implemented by respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, this Ministry has been addressing them to implement its provisions in letter and spirit. Further under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, central assistance is also provided to them mainly for strengthening of the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, inter caste marriages, awareness generation, and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

Inclusion of Nama Sudra community in SC list

†2290. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nama Sudra community has been proposed to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the efforts being made to do away with this delay?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Proposals to include Nama Sudra community in the list of Scheduled Castes, were received from State Governments of Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.

The proposal of Government of Uttarakhand was processed in accordance with the Approved Modalities. On the basis of comments of the Registrar General of India, the Government of Uttarakhand was requested to send requisite ethnographic information which has not been received.

The proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh to include Nama Sudra Community in the list of Scheduled Castes was referred back to them, as it was found inconsistent with conclusions contained in the Report of their Institute namely Adim Jati Anusandhan Evam Parikshan Sansthan, which mentioned that untouchability is not practiced against them, whereas the criterion followed for specification of caste as a Scheduled Caste is extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.

Reservation in private sector

2291. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion was given in the National Common Minimum Programme towards providing reservation in the private sector;

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken, if any, so far;

(c) whether Government is considering to bring in a new legislation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfill the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. A Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister was constituted in October, 2006, to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in the private sector. The Committee has been holding discussions with representatives of Apex Industry Chambers/Associations from time to time.

Housing for helpless people

†2292. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating on any scheme for housing for helpless persons in every district of the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.